

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP, VE

SUBJECT: PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE - VENEZUELAN POSITION

1. DURING 2-1/2 HOURS DISCUSSION TODAY WITH PEREZ GUERRERO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED HIS SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSED FORMAT FOR RESUMPTION OF THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE. IN SUMMARY HE HAS AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. INITIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP OF TEN WITH THE SAME LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AS THE APRIL PREPCON TO BE CONVENED IN PARIS EARLY OCTOBER. (HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A MEETING IN AUGUST BUT FINALLY ACCEPTED THE NECESSITY FOR A DELAY UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER AS WE HAD PROPOSED. HE WAS AWARE OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO BYPASS THE GROUP OF TEN MEETING BUT CONCURRED WITH US THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE A NECESSARY FIRST STEP.) BASIC AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED AT THIS MEETING FOR FURTHER STEPS IN THE DIALOGUE AS OUTLINED BELOW:

2. GROUP OF 27 WOULD MEET AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL 30 TO 60 DAYS FOLLOWING GROUP OF TEN MEETING. FORMULA FOR SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS IN GROUP OF 27 TO BE DECIDED AT THE GROUP OF TEN MEETING TO INCLUDE EIGHT INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, EIGHT OPEC AND ELEVEN LDC'S (PEREZ GUERRERO PREFERS TO TALK IN TERMS OF EIGHT INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND 19 LDC'S BUT

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PRESUMABLY WILL NOT OBJECT TO EIGHT OF THESE BEING OPEC NATIONS).

3. SITE OF THE GROUP OF 27 MEETING TO BE IN PARIS, GENEVA OR VIENNA BUT WITH DEFINITE PREFERENCE FOR PARIS. THE CHAIRMAN TO BE FROM A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, ROTATED AMONGST THE THREE PARTICIPATING GROUPS, OR POSSIBLY FROM THE UN.

4. THE GROUP OF 27 WOULD LAUNCH THE THREE SEPARATE COMMISSIONS ON ENERGY, OTHER COMMODITIES AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY RELATIONS WITH FINANCIAL AND MONETARY QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN EACH COMMISSION (PEREZ GUERRERO WAS AWARE OF YAMANI'S INTEREST IN A SEPARATE COMMISSION ON FINANCE AND MONETARY MATTERS BUT AGREED THAT WE SHOULD ONLY ESTABLISH THREE FULL COMMISSIONS).

5. THE PARTICIPANTS IN EACH COMMISSION TO BE SELECTED FROM THE GROUP OF 27 APPLYING SOME APPROPRIATE STANDARDS. HOWEVER, PEREZ GUERRERO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER EVERYONE BEING ABLE TO AGREE ON OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR USE IN SELECTING PARTICIPANTS. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD PREFER THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH COMMISSION TO BE OPEN ENDED, HE FINALLY AGREED TO OUR PROPOSED LIMITATION OF A MAXIMUM OF 12 TO 15.

6. THE GROUP OF 27 SHOULD ESTABLISH A GENERAL OUTLINE FOR THE WORK OF EACH COMMISSION BUT THIS SHOULD BE IN NEUTRAL TERMS WITHOUT PREJUDGING CONCLUSIONS. HE AGREED THAT EACH COMMISSION SHOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN DETAILED AGENDA AND PROCEED AT A PACE REFLECTING THE NATURE OF ITS TASKS AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA OPERATING IN THE SAME AREAS. THERE WOULD BE REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN THE THREE COMMISSIONS AND CONTINUING FEEDBACK TO THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE GROUP OF 27.

7. AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO BE AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE, THE THREE COMMISSIONS SHOULD REPORT BACK TO A RECONVENED MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 27. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE IN THE GROUP OF 27 AND CONCURRED WITH OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT ITS BECOMING A MINI-UN.

8. SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF THE GROUP OF TEN
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PARTICIPANTS, AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PLAN FOR RESUMPTION OF THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE SHOULD BE MADE NOT LATER THAN AUGUST TO PRECEDE THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 1.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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